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Monday, July 2, 2012

THE MORNING NEWS

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As Mexicans vote, comeback beckons for old rulers

MEXICO CITY - Mexico's old rulers were on track for a comeback as voters chose a new president yesterday, after a grisly war with drug cartels and a sluggish economy wore down the ruling conservatives.

Twelve years after the Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) lost power, opinion polls showed its candidate, Enrique Pena Nieto, heading into the vote with a double-digit lead over his opponents.

Voters ousted the PRI in 2000 after 71 years of virtual single-party rule that was tainted by corruption, electoral fraud and authoritarianism.

But Pena Nieto has established himself as the new face of the party and it has bounced back in part because of economic malaise and lawlessness under the conservative National Action Party (PAN).

A noisy crowd of protesters

met Pena Nieto when he voted in Atlacomulco, about two hours northwest of the capital, but hundreds of his supporters shouted down the demonstrators.

A youthful-looking former governor of the State of Mexico, Pena Nieto promises reforms to improve the country's tax take, loosen the job market and open the state-owned oil company Pemex to more foreign investment, citing Brazil's Petrobras as a model.

Mexicans are fiercely protective of Pemex, but the PRI, which nationalized oil production in 1938, could be the one party able to liberalize the energy sector.

Mexican presidents are elected by simple majority for six-year terms and are banned from running for re-election. There is no run-off vote.

Divi Links and BMW share the spotlight for the AIFF Farewell Bash

A week of artful international and regional filmmaking and glittering Hollywood celebrity smiles were showcased last week during the 3rd Annual Aruba International Film Festival, ending with an elegant show of island hospitality as Divi Resorts partnered with BMW to host the final farewell to some of the visiting stars and talents who made the week so memorable.

The patio of the Divi Links Clubhouse was decked out in stylish décor, punctuated by the latest models of BMW's



96 hours instructors Maureen, Darryl Wilson and Daniel Heffernan with Jonathan Vieira



Divi Properties GM Alex Nieuwmeier and Virginia Madsen

from Ultimate Automobiles, exclusive distributors of the luxury car on Aruba. Alex Nieuwmeier, GM of Divi Properties on Aruba was proud to host visiting stars Virginia Madsen, who opened the red carpet premieres on June 22 with "The Magic of Belle Isle," in which she co-starred with Morgan Freeman. Also bid farewell was Xavier Samuel, the handsome young sensation from "Twilight: Eclipse," who walked the red carpet on Sunday night for the premiere of "A Few Best

Men."

The evening was a final showcase for the newly installed AIFF Art Exhibition, with twelve of the 32 paintings in competition on display, along with the island artists who created them.

AIFF staffers, headed by Executive Producer Jonathan Viera, were finally able to relax just a little as they put a very full week of film screenings, red carpet events, major concerts by megastar Marc Anthony and Colombian su

Continued on page 12



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Department of Education informs about studying at University of N. Antilles



ORANJESTAD -- Aruban students planning on enrolling in the UNA-University of the Netherlands Antilles in Curacao for school year 2012-2013 must contact the Office of the UNA via email: internationaloffice@una.an.

All information regarding enrollment at UNA is available on their website at: www.una.net.

This year is the first time that UNA will be organizing an introduction program for their foreign students. They have discovered that their students coming from abroad lack guidance upon their arrival to Curacao and to the University. For this reason they have decided to organize a two-day introduction program on July 26y and 27, which will help students to be better orientated to Curacao and to the UNA.

During these two days, students will visit instances of pri-

mary importance to them, be introduced to Curacao in general, such as the use of the public transportation system, the nearby pharmacies, etc. The UNA wants to give new students a good view of life as a student in Curacao. The UNA is completely in charge of the two days.

Students interested in participating in the introduction days must register with Cristina Daniel of the International Office by email: internationaloffice@una.an or call telephone 5999-844-2149 in Curacao.

UNA is also organizing a week of introduction for first year students. This is scheduled to take place during the week of July 30 to August 3rd.

The first two days of the introduction program will be held at the UNA campus.

Continued on page 4



Pointers to Ponder

Tony A.D. Green www.people-self-development.com



Is Urirama really the ideal location, or should it be Solar Panels elsewhere?

As we approach the moment to finally make the decision whether or not to erect wind turbines at the Urirama site, we must, take one last look at all the evidence, the real pros and cons evidence. We must also ask ourselves one last time whether we have done due diligence in this matter.

Obviously, we cannot make our decision based primarily on the economic and financial benefits of such a project. Factors far more important than economic or financial are in the equation here. We must not make the same mistake that other countries have made, and that is, to weigh the financial benefits above the human health and environmental factors.

As we survey the wealth of information on the internet alone, then add all the other sources from which we can draw information about wind turbines and wind energy as an alternative energy source, such as from libraries, college and university publications, etc.; we realize that everyone is very cognizant of the facts about the pros and cons of wind turbines. Therefore, we can assume that our visitors are very aware of the health hazards of wind turbines. That knowledge alone should influence our decision to make certain that we don't do anything to scare and keep our visitors away. Tourists staying away from Aruba, because of the potential health hazard from wind turbines could trigger headlines like..."Aruban Tourists...Gone with the wind!"

I. Praise for Government's Efforts:

We continue, I certainly do, to applaud the efforts of the

government to promote alternative sources of energy for Aruba and to garrison support for that endeavor from around the world. By any standard, the government is doing a great job with respect to promoting the vision of a green Aruba. Nonetheless, the speed at which these efforts are made concrete and put into practice can be accelerated. For example, we are amazed at the giant steps being made on our sister island, Curacao. They have already planted wind turbines and have taken the wise decision to move ahead with solar energy. As far as we know they are already boasting a 75% wind and solar energy supply.....thus, way ahead of Aruba! And, what's more, they have determined that solar energy should be the emphasis and not wind energy!

II. Promoting the protection of humans:

In the research, we learn that The Society for Wind Vigilance, which is an international federation of physicians, engineers and other professionals, is dedicated to promoting the development of authoritative international wind turbine guidelines to protect the health and safety of people in their communities. This organization's primary mission is to mitigate the risk of the physiological and psychological negative effects of industrial wind turbines (IWT) through the advancement of objective independent third party research and how this applies to the placement of IWT.

The evidence for adverse health effects from IWT for people living within 2.0km of IWT is overwhelming! The So-

ciety for Wind Vigilance is diligently working on further human health research to finalize guidelines for the placement of wind turbines and on establishing noise levels to protect human health. However, based on the evidence we already have, the advice that is given is to make certain that industrial wind turbines be set up no closer than a minimum of 2.0km from where people live.

Not only in Aruba, but families and communities in many places around the globe are aware of the risks that wind turbines pose...and they are protesting vehemently against placing them where they can be damaging to their health. That must be our (ARUBA) greatest concern when we sit down to make that final decision! Even if the Urirama wind turbines would reduce our electric and water bills by 90% within 2 months, it would still not justify the health damage it would cause. It would still be the worst decision ever to place those wind turbines at Urirama!

III. Potential damaging litigation:

Placing Industrial Wind Turbines at Urirama may only expose WEB, ELMAR and/or the Government to unnecessary potential private litigation by individuals or from public interest groups. In other words, there may be ugly legal consequences for proceeding with such a project in light of all the available evidence. If you've read my previous articles on this matter of wind vs. solar, you know I present a solid case for the choice of solar over wind energy.

Continued on page 4

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Successful Conference “Mind your Eye” presented by Healthy Wealthy Solutions



In a sold out ballroom at the Marriott Resort, Healthy Wealthy Solutions recently presented the conference: “Mind Your Eye.” Attendees came from Bonaire, Curacao, The Netherlands, USA and Aruba.

Impressive presentations were given by guest speakers Anneke Kosse of Central Bank The Netherlands, Benno van Leeuwen of Forensic Services Caribbean, Jose Camacho of Investigative Consultants and Mered-

ith Britten of Central Bank of Aruba. They discussed topics based on counterfeit money, credit card fraud and cyber-crime.

The day was filled with interesting information and useful tips on how to protect



the vulnerable organizations against these crimes which are growing all over the world. Panellists were at hand to answer any questions regarding this matter.

Through this conference it was demonstrated that participants were interested in gaining more information and learn more how to remain one step ahead of the criminals.



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Pointers -- Is Urirama really the ideal location, or should it be Solar Panels elsewhere?

Continued from page 2

The combination of wind and solar may have its benefits, and Aruba has a decent wind energy production plant in the Vader Piet wind park. From the reliable information sources supporting solar energy over wind energy and from all the research which I have, and I'm certain our decision makers also have, we know that we should go for solar energy expansion and not for wind energy expansion. The bulk of the reasons presented here thus far for choosing solar over wind are for economic viability and profitability and for the conservation of the environment. As much as those are excellent reasons, I would rather focus on the health and safety reasons for the people who must live in the vicinity of wind turbines. The health and safety of human life should be the great motivating factor for choosing solar over wind in this particular scenario! Interestingly, the Urirama report presented to Parliament on the 15th of May makes absolutely no reference whatsoever to the health and safety concerns on human life of industrial wind turbines! I like how one source summarizes the choices that Parliament has to make about this project. Permit me to expand on it here.

IV. Parliament's only options:

In a nutshell, here are the 4 choices on the table for Parliament to make on Wednesday, July 4th from which they must choose one:

Option One: (HFO) Petroleum – Set up a wind turbine park at Urirama without a Battery backup to the tune of \$100 million dollars. According to WEB this would result in at least 19 additional electrical blackouts per year!

Option Two: (HFO) Petroleum – Set up a wind turbine

park at Urirama with a Battery backup to the tune of \$100 million dollars plus \$40 million dollars for the Batteries and additional infrastructure, and another \$5 million dollars per year for maintenance. These batteries have a lifetime of about 7 years and will have to be replaced. An area the size of a football field will have to be destroyed to create space for these batteries.

Option Three: (NG) Natural Gas – Set up a wind turbine park at Urirama without Battery backup to the tune of \$100 million dollars, plus additional investment for additional automation. Due to numerous technical problems no work will be done on the installation of NG (gas) for at least the next 5 years!

None of these three choices will bring down the price of electricity for consumers. The only option is to choose for more wind turbines (Option Two). However, this option will result in even higher costs to the consumer. In all three options, the basic price will end up being much higher. Globally the average price today is \$1.21 million dollars per MW. According to the report, the Urirama Park is 30MW, which amounts to about \$37 million dollars. What is the other \$63 million dollars for?

Option Four (government is against): The Bloomberg New Energy Finance's Wind Turbine Price Index is \$1.21 million dollars per MW. Aruba's Urirama Wind Park is 30MW. The Aruba Parliament will vote against the Urirama Wind Turbine Park:

1. Because they don't want to be tinkering with a laboratory of batteries in a production environment such as that of WEB's.

2. Because for the Aruban

consumer solar energy will result in a significant savings and because Parliament does not want to commit Aruba for the next 20 years to a higher energy price since even the Vader Piet project turned out to be 33% less than was calculated (value of Hutting figures?)

3. Because the Aruba Parliament wants to wait until all the information and facts are in with respect to the supply and financing of Natural Gas and the financing of the infrastructural changes at WEB to accommodate NG

4. Because the Aruba Parliament also considers the health and safety condition of the Urirama residents to be first and foremost in any decision making

5. And that placing Industrial Wind Turbines in an area previously decreed to remain a nature conservation area is simply impossible

6. Because Parliament is also convinced that Alto Vista must remain a peaceful and serene area and that the owls must not lose their dwelling place.

7. Because the government is intent on respecting the voice of the people when they speak respectfully, objectively and with logical reasoning within the context of the general interest of all.

I know the Aruba government will act in plain good faith and definitely do the right thing. I have always taught that Managers do things right, but that Leaders do the right thing. I expect that rather than Managers that true Leaders will step up to the plate on July 4th...and by God's grace, Do The Right Thing!

Let me know if this was in any way helpful, thanks:...
tonygreen.morningnews@hotmail.com

Department of Education informs about...

Continued from page 2



During those two days, students will be introduced to all the UNA facilities and services. The other three days will be held at Landhuis (country house) Asencion. Students will be camping on the grounds of the country house. For those who would prefer to stay in the country house, this will also be possible. This week of introduction is known to be very intensive and varied. Students are expected to work together with each other in groups. This becomes their first contacts with other students and helps to create the important student bonds.

The first two days at UNA are FREE. Students who desire to camp out are required to make a contribution of

Afls.35 to cover the costs. Students interested in participating should contact Mariela by email: mariela.dacostagomez@una.an or call telephone: 5999-844-2108.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact Christina Daniel, Student Counselor at UNA via email: international.office@una.an or telephone 5999-844-2149.

For information regarding study financing for Aruban students, consult the Aruba-lening section under letter A in the alphabet listed on the website of the Aruba Department of Education: www.ea.aw. You can also 'like' and follow Enseñansa Aruba/Education Aruba on face book and twitter to stay informed.



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A new crop of apprentice professionals receive their EPB diplomas



Minister Dowers awards diplomas



Signing off

All over the globe, graduates are moving on to join the work force or higher education, surrounded by beaming family members, and Aruba is no ex-

ception. Various venues around the island are hosting commencement exercises for island graduates and proud parents watched as their children were handed their diplomas from the EPB Thursday evening, June 28 at the Renaissance Convention Center by the island's Minister of Justice and Education, Arthur Dowers.

EPB, (Educativo Profesional Basico) is Aruba's entry level vocational school. This year 182 diplomas went to



A crop of new chefs

young islanders who will either take apprentice positions in Construction, Child Care, Business Administration, HORECA (Hotel, Restaurant, Café) industry as cooks or service help, or apprentice to become certified electricians. A number will continue their education within EPB as there are 3 levels of academic training, and upon completing the preliminary Arbeidsmarkt level, students can advance to the next highest, Uitstroom. Those who entered the school in the

highest level, Doorstroom, due to previous academic achievement, and maintained their grade level, immediately move on to the job market or an institution of advanced education such as the EPI, (Educativo Profesional Intermedio) Aruba's Vocational Middle School, where they earn an Associates Degree in any of the four fields of study. They can continue from there for more advanced technical training to become engineers, or go on to the University of Aruba to

study Hospitality Management.

Minister Dowers declared his enormous pride in this record breaking number of graduates, with just over 82% of the class completing their studies successfully.

Prior to awarding diplomas, graduates and their families enjoyed a poignant video of their school experience and a fabulous buffet dinner from the Renaissance Culinary Department after the diplomas were distributed.

by Rosalie Klein

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TUESDAY AND FRIDAY: LIVE MUSIC

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Chavez, Capriles launch Venezuela presidential race

CARACAS (AFP) - Venezuela formally launched its presidential campaign season yesterday ahead of October elections pitting firebrand leftist leader Hugo Chavez against centrist businessman and governor Henrique Capriles.

After 13 years in power, Chavez is facing his first serious election challenge as he vies for a third term that would seal the legacy of his "Bolivarian revolution" and his role as Latin America's leading leftist in the post-Fidel Castro era.

Chavez could score a 20-year hold on power if he is re-elected and serves out his full term. Though he has been battling cancer for more than a year, Chavez insists that he is



Henrique Capriles

fully recovered and ready to lead.

He will first, however, have to defeat the youthful Capriles, 39, the governor of Miranda state who boasts matinee idol looks and a dynamic personal style.

Most opinion polls currently put Chavez firmly in the

lead, but Capriles is counting on undecided voters -- currently estimated at 35 percent -- to help him win.

Dressed in a jacket and his trademark red beret, Chavez kicked off his campaign in the town of Mariara in Carabobo state, where he was greeted by hundreds of supporters.

On his Twitter account, Chavez prayed to God for the good health "to guide the people to victory!"

Venezuela's sometimes fractious opposition has united behind Capriles, who opened his campaign in the remote town of Santa Elena de Uairen, in Bolivar state, near Venezuela's border with Brazil.

Syrians bemoan failure of world talks on crisis

DAMASCUS (AFP) - The opposition and state media yesterday both branded an international plan for a transition in strife-torn Syria a failure, as the death toll for a weekend of violence topped 160.

World powers meeting in Geneva on Saturday agreed that the transition plan could include current regime members, but the West did not see any role for President Bashar al-Assad in a new unity government.

Russia and China insisted that Syrians themselves must decide how the transition takes place, rather than allow others to dictate their fate.

Moscow and Beijing, which have twice blocked UN Security Council resolutions on Syria, signed up to the final agreement that did not make any explicit call for Assad to cede power.

Official Syrian media slammed the outcome, in rare agreement with the main opposition Syrian National

Council (SNC) and the Local Coordination Committees (LCC) which organise protests.

The meeting "failed," trumpeted the ruling party's Al-Baath newspaper.

The SNC said it had expected "more serious and effective action" to emerge from the Geneva talks and reiterated that Assad must quit power.

"The Syrian people were hoping that the international community would adopt more serious and effective measures in dealing with the regime, whose bloody behaviour has become clear," the SNC said.

"The Syrian National Council affirms that no initiative can be accepted by the Syrian people unless it clearly calls on Bashar al-Assad and the tyrants around him to step down."

ICC prosecutor: Timbuktu shrine destruction a 'war crime'



BAMAKO (AFP) - Islamist rebels in northern Mali smashed four more tombs of ancient Muslim saints in Timbuktu yesterday as the International Criminal Court warned their campaign of destruction was a war crime.

The hardline Islamists who seized control of Timbuktu along with the rest of northern Mali three months ago, consider the shrines to be idolatrous and have wrecked seven tombs in two days.

Mali's government and the international community have expressed horror and outrage at the destruction of cultural treasures in the fabled city, an ancient desert crossroads and center of learning known as the "City of 333 Saints".

"My message to those involved in these criminal acts is clear: stop the destruction of the religious buildings now," ICC Chief Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda told AFP in an interview in Dakar.

"This is a war crime which my office has authority to fully investigate."

She said that Mali was signatory to the Rome Statute which established the ICC, which states in Article 8 that deliberate attacks against undefended civilian buildings

which are not military objectives are a war crime.

"This includes attacks against historical monuments as well as destruction of buildings dedicated to religion," said Bensouda.

On Saturday the Islamists destroyed the tombs of Sidi Mahmoud, Sidi Mactar and Alpha Moya, and yesterday attacked Cheikh el-Kebir's mausoleum as residents stood by helplessly.

The Islamists also destroyed earthenware jars and other artifacts around the tombs.

The cemetery is situated in the south of Timbuktu in the suburb of the eponymous Djingareyber mosque built from mud in 1327. The Islamists had also threatened to destroy the ancient mosques.

Several saints are buried inside the city's three historic mosques. Timbuktu is also home to 16 cemeteries and mausoleums, according to the UNESCO website.

The Islamist fighters from Ansar Dine (Defenders of Faith) are among the Al-Qaeda-linked armed groups which occupied the north of Mali in the chaos that emerged after a March coup in Bamako.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

Electricity slowly returns as US heatwave drags on

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Utility crews made slow progress yesterday in restoring electricity to millions of households amid a record-setting heatwave in the eastern United States that showed no sign of abating soon.

Temperatures shot back into the 100 degree Fahrenheit (37.7 Celsius) range in many areas, prompting the National Weather Service to warn of the prospect of severe thunderstorms including large hail and damaging winds.

Several million households made do without electricity two days after powerful thunderstorms knocked out power lines in nine states, notably in the Mid-Atlantic region.

Pepco, the utility that serves Washington and some of its suburbs, said it could take a week before all of its customers get their electricity back, reported WTOP all-news radio in the US capital.

Local authorities kept "cooling centers" open as refuges for those -- notably the elderly -- unable to cope without air conditioning, and at least one major supermarket chain gave away free ice to all comers.

At least 11 people died in Friday's storms, according to US news media, and four states -- Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Ohio -- declared states of emergency. Some 3.7 million homes lost power.

New Paraguay leader hits back at regional scorn

ASUNCION (AFP) - New President Federico Franco hit back yesterday at Paraguay's exclusion from two regional bodies and vowed not to yield to pressure from "outside forces" over the ouster of his predecessor.

Fernando Lugo's abrupt ouster on June 22 over his handling of a deadly land dispute has been widely criticized by other Latin American leaders, who say the now former president did not have time to mount a proper defense.

The Mercosur regional trading bloc, made up of Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay, barred fourth member Paraguay on Friday from participating until new elections are held.

UNASUR, the Union of South American countries, which comprises Mercosur member nations as well as Bo-

livia, Colombia, Ecuador and Peru, followed suit later the same day. Venezuela is set to join Mercosur later this month.

In a message read to the Paraguayan Congress to mark the opening of a new legislative session, Franco said his fledgling government "deplores the humiliating sanctions imposed by Mercosur and UNASUR."

The suspensions were taken "in full violation of existing treaties, and without even allowing us the right to challenge," he said. "No outside forces will force us to veer from this course."

New Paraguayan elections are slated for next April and although presidents in the poor South American country are not allowed two consecutive terms, the ousted Lugo says this no longer applies to him and he is considering a run.

Colombian volcano erupts, spewing ash and gas



VILLAMARIA, Colombia -- A woman wears a surgical mask in Villamaria, Colombia, near the Nevado del Ruiz volcano on July 1, 2012. Authorities ordered on June 30 the preventive evacuation of people living near the volcano following its eruption, though the level of alert was downgraded from red to orange on July 1. (AFP PHOTO)

US hails EU embargo on Iran oil

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The White House welcomed yesterday's implementation of an EU embargo on Iranian oil, calling it "an essential part" of an international response to Tehran's nuclear program.

President Barack Obama's press secretary Jay Carney in a statement said the United States and the European Union were committed to holding Iran accountable "for failing to meet its international obligations."

"With this decision, our partners in the EU have underscored the seriousness with which the international community views the challenge of Iran's nuclear ambitions," Carney said.

He added: "This action is an essential part of our concerted diplomatic efforts to present Iran with a clear choice between isolation or meetings its obligations."

With expert-level talks set for this week in Istanbul, he said, Iran "must take concrete steps toward a comprehensive resolution of the international community's concerns with Iran's nuclear activities."

Iran reacted with anger yesterday as the EU embargo went into effect, saying the measure would hurt talks with world powers over its sensitive nuclear activities.

Iranian leaders have said they will forge ahead with their atomic program, regardless of Western and UN Security Council restrictions, amid concerns that the Islamic republic is secretly building a home-grown nuclear arsenal.

Last Thursday, the United States exempted China and Singapore from sanctions over purchases of oil from Iran, saying that major economies were united in pressuring Tehran.



HONG KONG : Protesters wearing masks of Hong Kong chief executive Leung Chun-ying and a Chinese style prisoner shackle take part in a demonstration calling for universal suffrage in Hong Kong on July 1, 2012. Hong Kong's biggest protest for nearly a decade packed the former British colony's streets in a defiant reception for its new leader and a show of popular anger after 15 years of Chinese rule. (AFP PHOTO)

Wednesday

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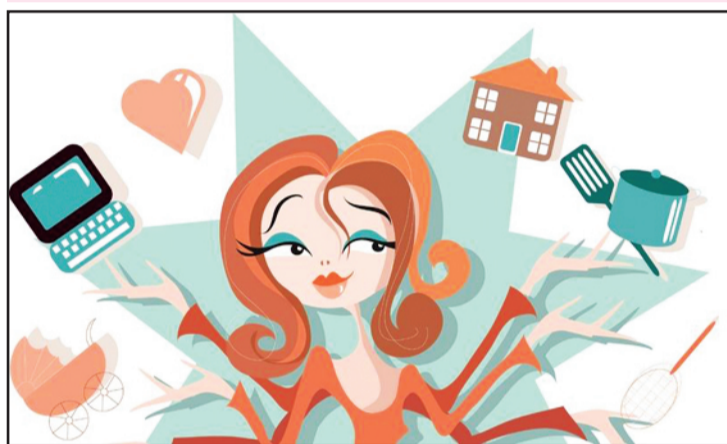
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Can women 'have it all?' US writer stirs debate



WASHINGTON (AFP) - An Ivy League scholar and mother-of-two is touching a raw nerve by questioning whether high-flying career women with families, at least American ones, can truly "have it all."

Writing in The Atlantic magazine, Anne-Marie Slaughter cited her own downshift from powerful State Department official to

mere Princeton University professor as evidence that they cannot, at least not as US society now stands.

"I still strongly believe that women can 'have it all' (and that men can too)," wrote Slaughter, 53, referring to the ability to juggle a successful career with raising a family.

"But not today, not with the way America's economy

and society are currently structured."

She floated a grab bag of potential solutions, from a female US president to more family-friendly working hours and encouraging young men "to act more like the women -- to speak less and listen more."

She also hailed Facebook chief operating officer Sheryl Sandberg for acknowledging knocking off work at 5:30 pm to have dinner with her family rather than enslave herself to the "time macho" culture of many US workplaces.

No one expected Slaughter to resolve the issue once and for all, but her essay has touched off a firestorm since it appeared last Thursday both online and in the print version of The Atlantic with a cover photo of a baby in a briefcase.

According to The Atlantic (www.theatlantic.com), "Why Women Still Can't Have It All" is among its most popular articles ever, on a par with the recent "How Your Cat is Making You Crazy" (about feline parasites and human brains).

It has garnered more "likes" on Facebook than any other Atlantic piece (more than 157,000 as of Wednesday) -- although it has failed to make an apparent impact on the November presidential election campaigns.

"Absolutely wonderful ... As a 21-year-old woman, it is the most encouraging thing I have read all year," wrote New York blogger Tala Azar Strauss on Slaughter's Twitter account (@SlaughterAM).

But some of the reaction on a variety of blogs, social media and the Atlantic's own website has been critical, if not downright catty.

"Slaughter ... wants to be in a high-powered job and also at home making pancakes and doing school pick-

up in another city," said author Lori Gottlieb in a blog on The Atlantic's website.

"And merely because she wants this so badly ... she believes she deserves it."

"Those who choose to have children (and it is a choice) and have the need to work full-time have to wake up to reality. And having this thing called a 'career' isn't all it's cracked up to be either."

As director of policy planning from 2009 to 2011, Slaughter oversaw the State Department's internal think tank and reported to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, whom she holds up as a per-

sonal role model.

Slaughter -- photographed inside the print version of The Atlantic smiling on a sofa with her two boys lying in her arms, one twirling drum sticks -- candidly admits her lifestyle as a tenured professor at a world-famous university and author of a forthcoming book is out of the norm.

"I am writing for my demographic," she said, rather than the majority of American mothers with far less glamorous jobs, or none at all. She has almost nothing to say about women in other countries.

Healthy eating tips:

Set yourself up for success

To set yourself up for success, think about planning a healthy diet as a number of small, manageable steps rather than one big drastic change. If you approach the changes gradually and with commitment, you will have a healthy diet sooner than you think.

Simplify. Instead of being overly concerned with counting calories or measuring portion sizes, think of your diet in terms of color, variety, and freshness. This way it should be easier to make healthy choices. Focus on finding foods you love and easy recipes that incorporate a few fresh ingredients. Gradually, your diet will become healthier and more delicious.

Start slow and make changes to your eating habits over time. Trying to

make your diet healthy overnight isn't realistic or smart. Changing everything at once usually leads to cheating or giving up on your new eating plan. Make small steps, like adding a salad (full of different color vegetables) to your diet once a day or switching from butter to olive oil when cooking. As your small changes become habit, you can continue to add more healthy choices to your diet.

Every change you make to improve your diet matters. You don't have to be perfect and you don't have to completely eliminate foods you enjoy to have a healthy diet. The long term goal is to feel good, have more energy, and reduce the risk of cancer and disease. Don't let your missteps derail you—every healthy food choice you make counts.

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SCI-TECH

Research team unveils spray-on battery

(AFP) -- A cutting-edge battery that can be spray-painted on just about any surface was recently unveiled by a research team that tested it on everything from bathroom tiles to a beer mug.

The design could revolutionise the design of lithium-ion batteries that power our laptops, mobile phones and electric cars -- leading to slimmer, lighter devices with built-in power supplies.

Using liquid versions of the same components found in conventional lithium-ion batteries, the team airbrushed their invention, in several layers, on to a glass slide, a stainless steel sheet, glazed ceramic tiles, and the curved surface of a mug.

"Basically, using this approach, we can convert any object or surface to a battery," said lead author Neelam Singh, an engineering student at Rice University in Texas.

Lithium-ion (or Li-ion) batteries work by transferring a charge between a negative and positive electrode.

Compared to other rechargeable batteries, they are light, have a high power output and storage capacity, and are safer.

For the prototype, the team created liquid, paintable versions of the five layered components -- two current

collectors, a cathode, an anode and a polymer separator.

"We first converted all the components of the battery into paints. We could then use these paints to literally paint batteries on any surface and using nothing but just a spraygun," said Singh.

The mug was used to show the paint's versatile application to objects of different shapes.

In one experiment, the team sprayed batteries on to nine bathroom tiles which they connected to each other.

One of the tiles had a solar cell attached to it, which was charged using a white laboratory light.

Once charged and connected, the tiles "delivered enough energy to power 40 red LEDs (light-emitting diodes) for more than six hours," said the team's report in the journal Nature Scientific Reports -- a steady 2.4 volts.

The battery's performance was "comparable" to that of the conventional type, said the team, and described the breakthrough as a "paradigm change in battery design".

Unlike existing batteries, the paintable version does not require an extra compartment for storage, and could thus be more easily integrated into

existing designs for battery-powered devices.

It also opens up exciting possibilities for solar power generation and storage.

"The ceramic tiles we converted into batteries could be used to build the entire exterior walls of a house," said Singh.

"A wall made of these batteries could then be covered with solar cells and this combination of solar cells and batteries could be used to capture and store the solar energy into useful electricity."

The painted batteries were

put through 60 charge-discharge cycles, which revealed "only a very small drop" in capacity, said Singh.

The researchers have filed for a patent on the technique, which they continue to refine.

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ACROSS

1. Holbrook and others
5. Keats poems
9. Andrews, for one (abbr.)
12. Baking place
13. Waikiki picnic
14. ___ detector
15. Type of dancer (hyph.)
16. Canines
17. Dam-building agcy.
18. Cross ___ (engage in combat)
20. Or's partner
22. Have breakfast
23. Refurbish
24. Frightened
28. Basks outside
31. Steal from
32. Univ. teachers
35. Golly's kin
36. Hindu teacher
38. One way or another
40. West Point (abbr.)
43. Sallor's drink
44. Minnesota's capital (2 wds.)
46. Suffocate
50. Barracks fixture
51. Vegetarian staple
53. Take charge
54. IM provider

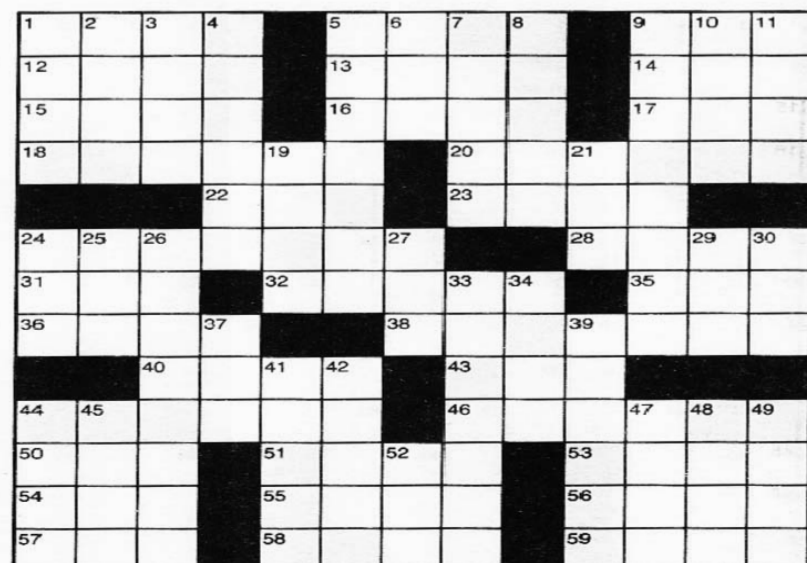
55. Day after Wed.
56. Scotland ___
57. Journalist Nellie ___
58. Not crazy
59. Collar stiffener

DOWN

1. Takes the biggest piece
2. Acknowledge
3. Interlocking toy block
4. Annoying bedmate
5. Elderly one
6. Pair
7. Agog

8. "If You Knew ___"
9. However
10. "Hawaii ___ - O"
11. Grizzly, e.g.
19. Watery
21. Football scores (abbr.)
24. Bolivia's neighbor (abbr.)
25. "___ Grant"
26. Without warning
27. Two (Sp.)
29. Modern (prefix)
30. Make a seam

33. As a certainty (2 wds.)
34. Filth
37. Mex.'s neighbor
39. Dickinson and Post
41. Mixed-breed canines
42. Wahine's greeting
44. Non-union worker
45. Utensil
47. Stunt
48. Zhivago's love
49. Twangy guitarist Duane
52. Enjoyable



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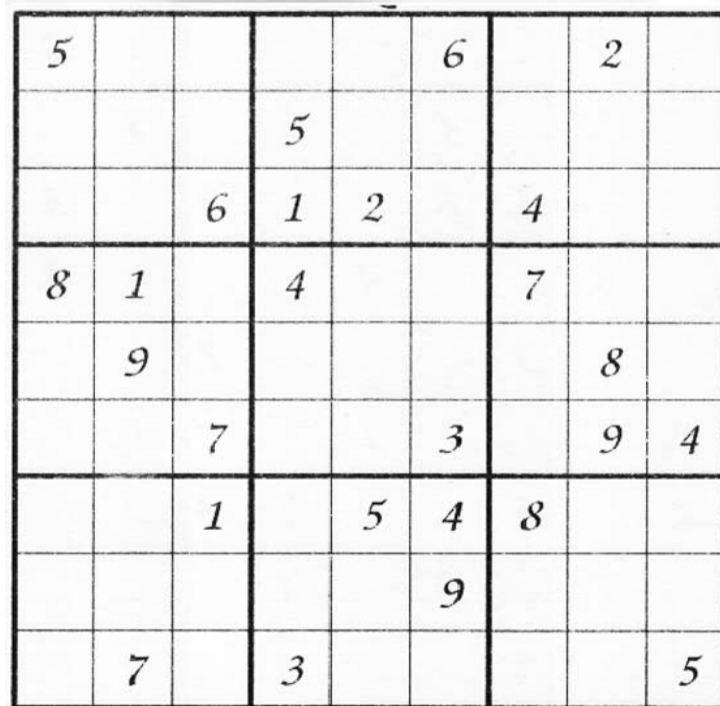
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SOLUTION

5	4	6	1	9	8	2	7
2	1	9	6	8	5	4	3
8	2	7	5	3	1	9	6
4	6	3	8	1	9	2	5
1	8	5	2	7	9	6	4
9	3	1	4	6	2	7	8
6	5	7	8	2	1	9	3
3	9	8	7	5	6	4	1
7	2	1	9	6	4	8	5

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9

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Finance

U.S. economy preview: Hiring probably cooled in second quarter

-- The jobs tally in June probably crowned the weakest quarter for employment in more than two years, evidence the U.S. recovery has lost momentum, economists said before reports this week.

Employers increased payrolls by 90,000 workers last month after a 69,000 gain in May, according to the median forecast of 59 economists surveyed by Bloomberg News ahead of Labor Department figures due July 6. Excluding government agencies, private hiring may have climbed by 100,000, concluding the smallest quarterly advance since the first three months of 2010.

The job slump has shaken confidence and stalled household spending, which accounts for about 70 percent of the economy, making the expansion more susceptible to any fallout from the European debt

crisis. Slowing consumer and global demand is also leading to a cooling in manufacturing, a mainstay of the recovery, another report this week may show.

"We really need to see job creation pick up, which is the only thing that's going to get households spending on a sustained basis," said Paul Dales, a senior U.S. economist at Capital Economics Ltd. in London. "The economy isn't going to get exceptionally weak from here, but neither is it going to get much stronger."

The unemployment rate, derived from a separate Labor Department survey of households, probably held at 8.2 percent, the economists predicted. Joblessness has exceeded 8 percent since February 2009, the longest stretch in monthly records dating to 1948.

Gross domestic product

rose at a 1.9 percent annual rate in the first quarter following a 3 percent rate in the prior three months, Commerce Department data showed last week. While household spending underpinned last quarter's gain, incomes stretched by weak job creation will probably limit growth prospects.

Manufacturing may also offer less support to the economy as domestic and global demand fades. The Institute for Supply Management Inc.'s factory index fell to 52 in June, the lowest level in eight months, from 53.5 the prior month, according to the Bloomberg survey median ahead of today's report.

The purchasing managers group's services index, which covers almost 90 percent of the economy, fell to 53 last month from 53.7 in May, a report on July 5 may show according to economists surveyed.

BBC: Barclays chairman to quit

LONDON (AFP) - The chairman of Barclays Bank is set to step down after it was fined for attempting to manipulate the inter-bank lending rate, the BBC reported yesterday.

Marcus Agius will announce today that he is to leave his post in the face of public and political fury over the bank's efforts to distort the rate at which banks lend to each other, according to the BBC.

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Eurozone News

Spanish output shrank at faster pace in second quarter

MADRID (AFP) - Spanish Economy Minister Luis de Guindos said yesterday that the country's recession deepened in the second quarter of the year.

During the period April to June, the economy contracted "slightly more" than in the first quarter of the year, when output shrank by 0.3 percent, said de Guindos, confirming a

Bank of Spain report issued on Wednesday.

The minister however said the government was keeping its recession forecast for 2012 unchanged, with a contraction of 1.7 percent expected.

He also underlined the engagement of his government "to stay on the path of reforms."

Finance minister: France cuts 2012, 2013 growth forecasts

PARIS (AFP) - France will post a smaller growth in 2012 and 2013 than earlier expected, Finance Minister Pierre Moscovici said in an interview published yesterday.

Growth in 2012 is now expected to reach just 0.4 percent or less this year rather than 0.5 percent, while in 2013, "an expansion within 1 to 1.3 percent ... appears more credible" than the earlier forecast of 1.7 percent, he said in an interview published on the Figaro newspaper's website.

Moscovici's remarks came

after the INSEE national statistics institute cut its French growth forecast for 2012 to 0.4 percent. It did not issue a revised estimate for 2013.

The growth downgrade would make it harder for the government to bring down its public debt levels to 4.5 percent of GDP in 2012 and 3.0 percent in 2013.

During his election campaign, President Francois Hollande promised to reduce public debt based on a forecast of 0.5 percent growth this year and 1.7 percent in 2013

Four RBS traders sacked for fixing bank rate

LONDON (AFP) - Four traders from the Royal Bank of Scotland were sacked at the end of 2011 for their role in fixing inter-bank interest rates, sources said yesterday.

The revelation comes after the state-rescued RBS confirmed it was being investigated for manipulating the rates at which banks lend to each other.

RBS, which is 82-percent owned by the government, declined to comment when contacted by AFP.

Britain will hold a review into the setting of benchmark inter-bank interest rates and seek to criminalise rate-fixing, the Treasury finance ministry said Saturday, following a scandal at major lender Barclays.

The independent review

aims to restore trust in Libor, a key benchmark reference rate that influences a swathe of other borrowing costs, after Barclays was hit with a record fine for attempted manipulation.

SATURDAY'S Crossword Answer

FLEE	BAD	AMIS
CELL	ESE	LENA
CAMELLIA	COOL	
VAL	DROWN	
CEDED	SPIT	
PLANE	CAPTURE	
ALF	SON	PAL
SATCHEL	SMOCK	
HEED	CANES	
PIERS	AUG	
DOOR	OLYMPICS	
DUTY	UTE	INNS
ETAL	TDS	EDNA



Daily Exchange Rates

Current as of:
07/01/2012

	Currency Code	Buying rate banknotes	Buying Cheques	Selling Rate
U.S.A.	USD	1.77	1.78	1.80
Dutch Antilles	ANG	98.00	100.00	100.20
Canada	CAD	1.72	1.74	1.76
Britain	GBP	2.71	2.76	2.82
Switzerland	CHF	186.21	186.93	187.73
Netherlands	EUR	222.21	224.23	226.49
Sweden	SEK	24.57	25.29	26.09
Denmark	DKK	29.20	29.92	30.72
Norway	NOK	28.80	29.52	30.32
Japan	JPY	221.92	223.94	226.19

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Divi Links and BMW share the spotlight for the AIFF Farewell Bash

Continued from page 1



AIFF General Factotum Jean Pierre Oduber



Participating artists Elvis Tromp, Timothy Charles and Maria Teresa Martinez



Visiting celebrities Virginia Madsen and Xavier Samuel

"In Conversation With" dialogs with Hollywood notables such as Ray Liotta, Val Lauren, and Oscar-winning film editor Pietro Scalia ("Gladiator," "Kick-Ass," "American Gangster," "Memoirs of a Geisha," and now "Prometheus" and "Amazing Spiderman") to

bed.

Also relaxing after an intensive week of classes were the guest instructors of the 96 Hours Film Lab, a project aimed at engaging and educating potential island filmmakers. Darryl Wilson, a professor of experimental film at NYU conducted the class last

year, which this year was expanded to include acting, taught by veteran Maureen Heffernan, while her brother Daniel, also on the NYU Tisch Film School faculty, taught scriptwriting and advance editing for returning students.



Adriana Perez of AIFF staff



Star and director Alexander Giraldo of 180 Seconds

The final evening of screenings at The Cinemas in Paseo Herencia ended with a rescheduling by popular demand of the AIFF world premiere, "Children of the Wind," which was the People's Choice Winner of the AIFF Caribbean Spotlight Series competition. This

year's glittering line-up of events from June 22 to 28 ended with an equally glamorous soiree under the stars, the surroundings of the elegantly landscaped greens providing the perfect "island chic" am-



Artists Elisa and DizzyRay

biance that distinguishes the Aruba International Film Festival from any other.

by Rosalie Klein

Gold Coast Aruba: Great savings for large families on holiday rentals



Aruba's newest and most innovative gated community has enjoyed steady sales since breaking ground, as many are finding the secure surroundings and outstanding amenities are just what they were looking for before considering purchasing property on the island. Some owners are using

families, famed hotelier Ed Malone has been placed in charge of the rental program.

Staying at Gold Coast is a very attractive proposition for those traveling with groups that would require multiple hotel rooms. Two and three bedroom Villas or Town Homes accommodate large numbers and offer

Gold Coast accommodations are elegant and spacious, offering privacy for parents or a few couples. Beautifully appointed kitchens and bathrooms grace each abode; barbecues and lounges are provided for friendly cookouts and truly savoring the island life. All homes come with cable TV, high-speed fiber-optic Internet connection, individual washer/dryer, and are fully air-conditioned. Cribs, high chairs and hair dryers are available for a modest fee. Concierge services to arrange rental cars, spa appointments, activities and restaurant reservations are all part of the package.

Check-in for your holiday escape is conducted in the comfort of your vacation home, not while waiting on line at check-in desk. In every way, Gold Coast seeks to pamper their guests while providing them with the feeling of being in a cozy community, not the normally bustling resort, particularly experienced during the major holidays. If you wish an optimal vacation experience with great savings, visit their website: www.goldcoastaruba.com to get acquainted with the community and the layout, details and availability of accommodations, or call 586-2200 to talk personally to a Gold Coast representative.



the villas or town homes as vacation retreats rather than full time and are taking advantage of Gold Coast's rental services to turn their investment into ready income.

"The greater portion of home owners are using their 'home away from home' in Aruba to escape the winter months, or spend holidays with the family on the island," noted Gold Coast developer Fito Croes. To assist in the demand for more complete facilities for groups and

extensive amenities along with a final cost resulting in considerable savings. The community is minutes to the best beaches and all the casino action, and offers a quiet and secluded getaway with two swimming pools and specialized services with more on the way, such as a fitness room, tennis courts and mini-mall. Ed can arrange maid service, babysitters, caterers, airline pick-up and drop-off; they even boast a shopping service to stock your shelves before arrival.

Great buys on tech-toys and necessities at Technoland



Technoland, found on the second level of Palm Beach Plaza Mall carries one of the most extensive inventories of well-respected brands in video-game consoles and accessories, state-of-the-art personal computers, and home audio and video systems. Now great savings can be had during their **50% OFF SALE** on the most-wanted

For purists who love their handheld controllers, Technoland has a collection of the jazziest, most colorful, full-featured Afterglow controllers for the PS3 at 50% off, as well as DJ Hero 3 rock guitar.

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items.

Technoland has a vast array of adult toys to please any dad, at great savings. Pair up the XBOX 360 with the Kinect sensor, which reads full body movement, and comes with 3 games, and players can now truly enjoy the thrill of taking part in a Wild West shootout or battle the bad guys real time!

phones are all on sale at equally dazzling prices; over 150 items are now marked down and available at great savings, while supplies last.

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Overpowering Felix lead US 200 stars into London



EUGENE, Oregon (AFP) - Two-time Olympic runner-up Allyson Felix ran the sixth-fastest women's 200 meters in history on Saturday, winning the final at the US Olympic Track and Field Trials in 21.69 seconds.

Felix, embroiled in contro-

versy over a deadlock for the final 100m Olympic spot, served notice she will be a gold favorite in London by surging to the lead quickly and leaving behind a world-class field to set a personal best.

Only doping-disgraced Marion Jones, Jamaica's Merlene Ottey and the late world record-holder Florence Griffith-Joyner have ever run faster than Felix did to ensure she would reach the London Olympics.

"I don't think it has quite sunk in yet," Felix said. "For so long I have looked at those times and wanted to be on that list. But the job is not done. It's all about London."

It was the fastest time clocked in the event since Jones went 21.62 in 1998 in South Africa.

Evergreen Torres safely into semis



(AFP) -- Dara Torres launched her bid to make a sixth Olympic team Sunday with the fifth-quickest time in the 50m freestyle heats at the US swimming trials.

The 45-year-old veteran, whose three silver medals in Beijing included the 50m free, clocked 25.00sec in the heats topped by 100m freestyle winner Jessica Hardy in 24.55.

Torres is already the oldest woman swimmer to compete in the Games. She was 41 when she raced in Beijing, where she capped a comeback to major competition with a fifth Games appearance eight years after her fourth.

Since then, Torres has undergone reconstructive surgery on her left knee in October of 2009.

She also coped with the death of German-born coach Michael Lohberg, credited by Torres with helping her reach the 2008 Games. Lohberg was diagnosed with aplastic anemia shortly before the Beijing Olympics and died in April of 2011.

"This is the first time I've ever come to trials and had no idea how I'm going to do,"

Torres said, adding that it was "a lot tougher this time".

"When I was 41 people said I was middle-aged, but now I'm really, really middle-aged."

Deschamps next for French poisoned chalice?

PARIS (AFP) - France's World Cup and Euro-winning captain Didier Deschamps is seen as the favourite to become the fifth national team coach in the past 10 years after Laurent Blanc decided not to accept a new contract.

But if confirmed, 43-year-old Deschamps, once witheringly described as a "water carrier" by Eric Cantona, would be taking on what increasingly looks like a poisoned chalice after a torrid recent history for the 1998 world champions.

Euro 2000-winner Roger Lemerre stepped down after France failed to exit the group stage at the 2002 World Cup; Jacques Santini, left after Euro 2004 for an ill-fated sojourn at Spurs; and Raymond Domenech went in 2010 after a rollercoaster six years. Should Deschamps take over, he would at least be able to continue the hard work that Blanc had put in since replacing the largely unloved Domenech after the 2010 World Cup debacle, which compounded a disastrous Euro 2008 campaign.



Murray takes stock after nervy win

LONDON (AFP) - Andy Murray was enjoying a well-earned day of rest from competition on Sunday while he pondered how to up his game for the challenges facing him in the second week of Wimbledon.

The Scot battled his way past the dangerous Marcos Baghdatis late Saturday, edging a 7-5, 3-6, 7-5, 6-1 win in three hours and 13 minutes just in time for the 11:00 p.m. deadline imposed on matches

for health and safety reasons.

It was the latest-ever finish at the All England Club.

And while the victory kept alive his hopes of finally winning a Grand Slam title at the age of 25, Murray said he was aware he had to find another gear if that dream is to be realised.

"I was very nervous, I knew it was going to be tough," said Murray of the win over Baghdatis.

There were concerns also over Murray's fitness as he took several painful-looking tumbles in a Centre Court match that saw the sliding roof closed at the start of the third set.

Murray returned to the court after the break, while the roof was closed, with his

knee strapped up, fuelling further concerns about his fitness.

"My knee was a little bit sore," he told the BBC. "I took a tumble towards the end of the second set, I slipped and my foot went from underneath me and when I cooled down a little bit, when we had the break with the roof, it was a little bit stiff."

"I had the physio work on it and put some tape on it and it was ok."

The next opponent for Murray is 23-year-old Croatian Marin Cilic with their match scheduled second up on Court One on Monday. There was no play scheduled for Sunday at Wimbledon as is the tradition.

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Granny fails to reach Florida in Cuba-US swim

MIAMI (AFP) - An attempt by British-Australian woman Penny Palfrey to swim unassisted from Cuba to Florida ended in failure early Sunday after she had to be pulled out of the water unable to cope with a strong ocean current.

"Penny Palfrey had to be pulled out of the water, after swimming for more than 40 hours," the team said in a tweet.

It said Palfrey had to abort her bid to reach the Florida Keys at about midnight (0400 GMT Sunday) due to a strong southeast current "that made it impossible for her to continue her swim."

"Penny is presently on her escort boat being taken care of by her crew," the team said.

The mother of three and grandmother of two had been seeking to become the first to complete the historic feat without a protective cage to ward off sharks.

The 49-year-old, who left the Cuban capital of Havana shortly after sunrise Friday, had already covered three quarters of her itinerary when she ran into trouble.

She was just 27 miles (43

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Cancellara keeps yellow but pipped by sneaky Sagan



Sagan

SERAING, Belgium (AFP) - Fabian Cancellara of Switzerland held on to the Tour de France yellow jersey Sunday after being pipped at the finish line of the first stage by streetwise Slovakian Peter Sagan.

Cancellara now leads British race favourite Bradley Wiggins of Sky by 7sec in the

general classification, with Frenchman Sylvain Chavanel third on the same time.

Australia's defending champion Cadel Evans, of BMC, remains 17sec off the pace and 10sec behind Wiggins.

RadioShack rider Cancellara took the race leader's jersey thanks to a commanding

opening day win when he repeated his Liege feat of 2004 to claim the fourth prologue win of his career.

But despite leaving a gaping hole when he pulled away from the peloton with 1.5km remaining on the 2.4km-long uphill finish, the Swiss was upstaged by the Liquigas team's Slovakian champion.

Sagan, a sprinter known for his climbing abilities, attached himself to Cancellara's back wheel and for the remaining 1200 metres refused to collaborate by taking a relay at the front to allow the Swiss a breather.

Norwegian Edvald Boasson Hagen of Team Sky, meanwhile, caught up with the pair to create a three-man sprint at the finish.

But after Cancellara launched his sprint inside the final 300 metres, Sagan simply emerged from his slipstream to claim his maiden win on the race and continue his impressive season so far.

At 22 years old Sagan is the youngest rider on the race after Frenchman Thibaut Pinot of FDJ. Probably more significantly, he is the second youngest rider, after Lance Armstrong in 1993, to win a

stage on the race.

Having claimed an impressive five stage wins at the Tour of California as well as four victories at the Tour of Switzerland, Sagan was only too happy to open his account on the Tour.

It was even more sweet as he missed out on contending victory on the prologue when he lost precious seconds after his foot came out of his cleat pedal.

"I'm very happy, especially after yesterday's incident at the prologue," said Sagan.

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Euro 2012 end of tournament scorers - Position

Euro 2012 scorers after Sunday's match:

3 goals: Balotelli (ITA), Dzagoev (RUS), Gomez (GER), Mandzukic (CRO), Ronaldo (POR), Torres (ESP)

2 goals: Alonso (ESP), Bendtner (DEN), Fabregas (ESP), Ibrahimovic (SWE), Jiracek (CZE), Krohn-Dehli (DEN), Pilar (CZE), Salpingidis (GRE), Shevchenko

(UKR), Silva (ESP)

1 goal: Alba (ESP, Bender (GER), Blaszczykowski (POL), Cabaye (FRA), Carroll (ENG), Cassano (ITA), Di Natale (ITA), Gekas (GRE), Jelavic (CRO), Karagounis (GRE), Khedira (GER), Klose (GER), Lahm (GER), Larsson (SWE), Lescott (ENG), Lewandowski (POL), Mata (ESP, Mellberg

(SWE), Nasri (FRA), Navas (ESP), Ozil (GER), Pavlyuchenko (RUS), Pepe (POR), Pirlo (ITA), Podolski (GER), Postiga (POR), Reus (GER), Rooney (ENG), Samaras (GRE), Shirokov (RUS), St Ledger (IRL), van Persie (NED), van der Vaart (NED), Varela (POR), Walcott (ENG), Welbeck (ENG)

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Spain make history to retain European title



KIEV (AFP) - Spain on Sunday retained their European championship title in style, beating Italy 4-0 in the Ukrainian capital Kiev to become the first side to complete back-to-back wins in the competition's 52-year history.

Manchester City's David Silva opened the scoring in the 14th minute, heading home a pinpoint cross from

Barcelona's Cesc Fabregas, after a fired-up Spain, earlier accused of playing a "boring" possession game, came out all guns blazing.

Jordi Alba made it two on 41 minutes after he ran onto a sublime through-ball from his new Barca team-mate Xavi Hernandez and slotted a left-foot shot past the advancing Gianluigi Buffon.

Fernando Torres -- who scored in Spain's 1-0 Euro 2008 final win against Germany four years ago -- made it three with six minutes left while his Chelsea colleague Juan Mata made it four on 88 minutes.

"La Furia Roja" are now the only side to have won three consecutive major titles, with European wins either side of their World Cup victory in

2010.

Tens of thousands of people young and old thronged the streets of Rome and Madrid to watch the game on giant screens, with both historic capitals a sea of green, white and red Italian tricolors and red and yellow Spanish flags.

But it was Spanish fans who erupted at the final whistle in scenes of wild celebration that brought unbridled joy to a nation struggling with recession.

The final was the 31st match in three weeks of football involving 16 teams in Poland and Ukraine, which despite misgivings before the start of the tournament, has generally been considered to have gone well.



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